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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

^ Security Council holds consultations to discuss message to Iraq saying that inspection team currently detained in Baghdad must leave with copies of "all documents".

^ Advance team to visit East Timor on Saturday 28 September, in preparation for visit of Portuguese Parliamentary delegation.

^ General Assembly hears addresses by Head of State of Liechtenstein, President of Supreme National Council for Cambodia, Amir of Kuwait; and statements by Foreign Ministers of Ghana, Turkey and Malta. President of Suriname and Ministers of India, Papua New Guinea, Costa Rica and Belarus also address the Assembly.

^ United Nations needs to experience "new order" if it is to have meaningful role in "new world order", says report by United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon to discuss its reply to a letter it received from Iraq last night on the situation of the inspectors who have been detained at a Iraqi weapons site near Baghdad since Tuesday.

United States Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering told correspondents, following consultations, that the reply would indicate that the Council insisted that the team should leave with all its documents and film intact. The Council did not object to the taking of an inventory, as requested by the Iraqi authorities, Mr. Pickering said. The letter would also notify the Iraqi authorities of the next inspection, which might involve the use of helicopters, including the modalities for the use of those helicopters.

Also speaking to the press, Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée of France said it was the understanding of the Council that the inspection team would be allowed to leave once the inventory of all the documents was completed.

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For information media—not an official record

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A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that Indonesia had confirmed its readiness to receive a small advance team to East Timor to prepare the logistical and technical aspects of the visit of the Portuguese Parliamentary delegation.

She said the agreement was reached during three rounds of substantive talks that had followed the agreement reached between Indonesia and Portugal on the terms of reference of the visit to East Timor by the Portuguese delegation.

Following further talks it had now been agreed, the spokeswoman said, that the advance team would begin its mission on 28 September and end it on 7 October.

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The General Assembly met this morning to hear addresses by the Prince of Liechtenstein, the President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and the Amir of Kuwait. The Assembly also heard the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Justice of Malta.

Opening today's debate, Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein welcomed the seven new members of the United Nations. "As the representative of the smallest Member State" of the Organization, he thanked the international community for accepting Liechtenstein last year as a Member of the United Nations.

He said United Nations membership gave protection to those which were too weak to defend their independence. He also proposed a preliminary study on guidelines or rules of conduct to govern the process of self-determination, saying such a study could eventually become an international convention.

In his address, the President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, Prince Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, said the progress achieved in recent negotiations on a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian conflict, most recently in New York, augured well for the future. The talks included the major issues relating to a cease-fire, cessation of external arms supplies, demobilization of armed forces, political and electoral systems for Cambodia and the declaration of fundamental human rights.

He said the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, which was to resume its work at the end of October, would allow for a finalizing and signing of the long-awaited agreement on the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian conflict. Prince Sihanouk said the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), together with the Supreme National Council, constituted the two key elements of the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia.

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In his address to the General Assembly, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, said that despite the extensive damage inflicted by the Iraqi invasion on Kuwait's physical infrastructure and the crimes perpetrated against man and life in all its forms, the reconstruction of his country was well under way. The revitalization process was a huge operation which represented a real challenge for his country.

Sheikh Al-Sabah also conveyed the sentiments of gratitude and appreciation to all those countries that had come to Kuwait's aid in defence of right and justice. The United Nations system, in particular the Security Council, the specialized agencies and the Secretary-General had greatly contributed to the collective defence of Kuwait and to upholding the principles of the United Nations.

Mr. Obed Asamoah, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, pointed out that the statistics of world poverty provided by a number of institutions continued to be disturbing. Despite the dependence of industrial countries for their economic growth on the imports of primary commodities from the developing countries, 70 per cent of world income is produced and consumed by 15 per cent of the world's population in the industrial countries.

In addition, he said, the impact of technological innovation in the industrial countries will undoubtedly widen this gap. The developing world was not asking for charity, since it recognizes that it is ultimately its responsibility to create its own development. However, some concerted measures had to be taken in order to mitigate the economic burden of the developing countries, such as a reduction of the debt-servicing and the stabilization of commodity prices.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Safa Giray, expressed his concern over the ongoing violence in Yugoslavia, since, he said, peace and stability in the Balkan region depend in large measure on what happens in that country. Mr. Giray said his country supported the peace initiatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) countries and sincerely wished that these might yield positive results.

Speaking about the Gulf area situation, Mr. Giray stated that Iraq's full compliance with Security Council resolution 687 and subsequent resolutions relevant to various aspects of the post-war settlement was not only the rightful expectation of the international community, but also a prerequisite for the resumption by Iraq of its place in the family of nations.

On the question of Cyprus, Mr. Giray said that direct contacts between the leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities on the island should lead to the narrowing of differences that still exist today. What is required at the moment, he said, is not recriminations and the pursuit of unrelenting confrontation, but a new mentality which will bring about positive changes.

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Guido de Marco, Foreign Minister of Malta and President of the previous General Assembly, addressed the body this afternoon, saying a multipolar approach in the new international world order could not be based on the global pentagonal of the United States, the Soviet Union, the European Community, China and Japan, but must involve the small- and medium-sized countries.

He also reiterated his country's proposal that the Trusteeship Council, in addition to its function under the Charter, be entrusted not only with territories and men but should also be the Trusteeship Council of the world in environmental matters affecting the common heritage and common concerns of an everlasting humanity. Addressing problems of the developing world, Mr. de Marco said that the United Nations had to be "the conscience of the world" in realizing that there exists a "poverty curtain" and in taking action to remove it.

In his address to the Assembly, President Runaldo R. Venetiaan of Suriname, advocated South-South cooperation and the encouragement of all efforts to strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries.

President Venetiaan said Suriname supports the view that for economic development, these countries should rely increasingly on their own resources and efforts, without isolating themselves from the North. He noted however that problems such as external debt, reverse transfer of resources from developing to industrialized countries and new forms of protectionism, still constituted serious restraints in the development process. He urged the promotion of greater cooperation and the assumption of more responsibilities as a matter of priority.

The Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Madhavsingh Solanki, told the Assembly that his country had noticed a disturbing trend in the economic field. He asserted that attempts were being made to factor non-economic considerations such as good governance, observance of human rights, environment and military expenditure, into the calculus of international and bilateral economic cooperation. He said that India attached high priority to the preservation of the environment and would very much like to reduce its military budget. But these laudable goals should apply to all countries -- developed and developing, he added.

In his statement, the Minister of Education for Papua New Guinea, Utula Samana, said that his country was particularly encouraged by the measures being taken in New Caledonia by the French authorities to promote equitable political, economic and social development in order to provide a framework for that Territory's peaceful evolution to self-determination and independence.

Mr. Samana further stated that his Government would continue to work with other member States of the South Pacific Forum in opposing nuclear testing and the dumping of nuclear and other toxic wastes in that region. He expressed his concern over the nuclear testing activities that France continues to carry out in that area, despite long-standing opposition by the South Pacific Forum.

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In his address to the Assembly, Bernd H. Niehaus, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, said all countries of Central America now counted on democratic Governments. However, he said, paradoxical as it may seem, the advances towards democracy and peace had had negative repercussions in the amounts of international cooperation to the development of Central America. Costa Rica had firm hopes, he said, in the labour of the Association for Democracy and the Development of Central America -- an entity designed to strengthen democratic institutionalization in the area and to attract resources to give impulses to economic reactivization.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Pyotr K. Kravchanka, told the Assembly that he was deeply moved while informing the "world parliament" that on 25 August the decision of the supreme legislative body of the Republic had given the Constitutional status to the Declaration on State Sovereignty. On 19 September the Supreme Soviet decided to rename the State, the "Republic of Belarus", and to establish new state symbols. Negotiations with Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland had already begun to establish bilateral relations with those countries.

Addressing the Assembly last night, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, Enrique Dreyfus, expressed concern about the military expenditures of developing countries. Between 1960 and 1988, those expenditures had increased at twice the rate of the increase in per capita income.

The Foreign Minister reiterated his Government's position that war must be outlawed and military expenditures reduced by 50 per cent by the end of the decade. He confirmed that Nicaragua had been able to consolidate its policy of pacification and demilitarization, reducing its armed forces to 21,000 troops; and that of the 22,000 members of the resistance who had been demobilized, 20,000 had been incorporated into normal life. He also said his Government was making great efforts to settle displaced persons and refugees and was giving special emphasis to the Declaration of Central America as a Region of Peace, Freedom, Democracy and Development.

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A report of a high-level panel discussion on the role of the United Nations in the new world order, held in Atlanta, Georgia, on 8 June, concluded that if the United Nations were to have a meaningful role in the new world order, the Organization should itself experience a new order, and that the challenge to the world body was both from within and from outside.

The panel discussion was co-sponsored by United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), which also issued the report, and by the Atlanta Council for International Cooperation, a non-governmental organization.

According to the Executive Director of UNITAR, Michel Doo Kingue, the report is most timely because in his address to the General Assembly on 23 September, United States President, George Bush, who launched the idea of a new world order together with other world leaders, had referred to the need to promote a new world order that would meet the expectation of humankind.

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